

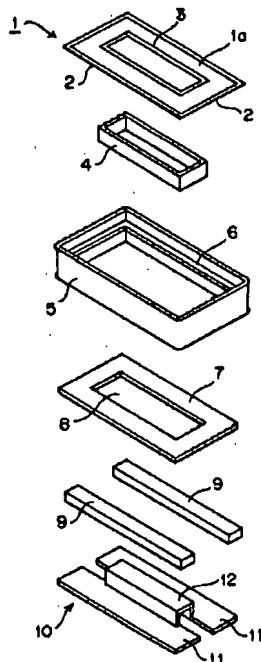
REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-41, as amended, remain herein.

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 10 and 12 recite allowable subject matter. New claims 16-28 incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 10 and new claims 29-41 incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 12.

1. The Office Action objects to sheet 8 of the drawings; however, applicants filed a preliminary amendment on October 14, 2004 that deleted sheet 8. Accordingly, this objection is moot.

2. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Akinori Japanese Patent Publication 2003-032786 in view of Sabato Japanese Patent 411205897. Akinori discloses a rectangular speaker, as shown in Fig. 1 reproduced below. Akinori fails to disclose, *inter alia*, a track-shaped voice coil or a track-shaped magnetic gap, as claimed.



Sabato fails to disclose what is missing from Akinori. Sabato discloses a loudspeaker in which “[a] magnetic gap 20 of a magnetic circuit of this loudspeaker is shaped rectangular and an outer shape of the magnetic coil is shaped rectangular, and a frame 17, a voice coil 21, a damper 22, a diaphragm 23 and a neck part of a dust cap 24 are all shaped rectangular.” While Sabato contemplates that the disclosed techniques may be used in speakers of different shapes, Sabato does not disclose or suggest varying the shape of the magnetic gap 20. Accordingly, Sabato fails to disclose or suggest a loudspeaker having a track-shaped voice coil and a track-shaped magnetic gap.

Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Akinori or Sabato or anything else in this record, that would have suggested applicants’ claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Akinori or Sabato or anything else in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants’ claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 15.

3. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Akinori Japanese Patent Publication 2003-032786 in view of Sabato Japanese Patent 411205897, further in view of Nakaso U.S. Patent 6,654,475.

As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori or Sabato that discloses or suggests applicants’ claimed invention. Nakaso fails to provide what is missing from Akinori and Sabato. Nakaso discloses an elongated speaker configuration having track-shaped voice coils with magnets disposed inside the voice coils, thus limiting the size of the

magnets. Sound pressure levels might be increased but increasing the size of the magnet; however, because the magnet is within the voice coils, increasing magnet size may require a corresponding increase in the size of the voice coils.

Applicants' claimed invention improves upon conventional loudspeaker designs by placing bar magnets outside of the voice coils. Thus, the size of the bar magnets may be increased without a corresponding change in voice coil size. As the cross-sectional area of the magnets directly relates to the magnetic force of the magnetic circuit as well as the output sound power, applicants' claimed loudspeaker design enables larger magnetic forces for a given size and, thus, greater output power. Nakaso fails to disclose a magnetic circuit arrangement forming an outer magnet type magnetic circuit as claimed by applicants.

Furthermore, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Akinori, Sabato, or Nakaso, or anything else in this record, that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 6 is nonobvious over Akinori, Sabato, and Nakaso, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

4. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Akinori Japanese Patent Publication 2003-032786 in view of Sabato Japanese Patent 411205897, and further in view of Sueaki Japanese Patent Publication 05-191892.

As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori or Sabato which discloses or suggests applicants' claimed invention. Sueaki fails to provide what is missing from Akinori and Sabato. Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori, Sabato, or Sueaki or anything else in this record that would have suggested applicants'

claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art or that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claim 8.

The subject matter of claim 8 is nonobvious over Akinori, Sabato, and Sueaki.

5. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Akinori Japanese Patent Publication 2003-032786 in view of Sabato Japanese Patent 411205897, and further in view of Sabato et al. U.S. Patent 6,188,774.

As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori or Sabato '889 that discloses or suggests applicants' claimed invention. Sabato '774 fails to provide what is missing from Akinori and Sabato '889. Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori, Sabato '889, or Sabato '774 that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art, or would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 11 is nonobvious over Akinori, Sabato, and Sabato '774, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

6. Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Akinori in view of Sabato, and further in view of Miwa Japanese Patent 2000-201396.

As explained above herein, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori or Sabato that discloses or suggests applicants' claimed invention. Miwa fails to provide what is missing from Akinori or Sabato. Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Akinori, Sabato, or Miwa that would have

Serial No.: 10/511,672
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suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art or would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions of those references effectively to anticipate or render obvious applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 11 is nonobvious over Akinori, Sabato, and Miwa, and applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

This application is now fully in condition for allowance. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2176). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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